

God Will Provide for You Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Do you find it easy to lend your possessions to other people? Explain.
2. If you had to change your name to something else, what would you choose?

Read the following passage: Genesis 22:1-14.

By the time Abraham faced this test, he had been walking with God for over thirty years. He was well into a long process of leaving behind the gods, the behaviors, and the beliefs of his past in order to follow Yahweh, the one true living God. It was in the area of descendants that Abraham had the most difficulty trusting God. This surprising command from God was effectively his final test in this area.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Read Genesis 11:27-31 and Joshua 24:2. How might Abraham's past have affected his walk with God? What are some of the key experiences of your past that impact your walk with God in the present?
2. Read Genesis 15:1-3. Why was having a male descendant such a big deal to Abraham? What might play a similar role in your life? Are there any desires or dreams in your life that are extremely important to you? How are you affected when those desires or dreams are threatened?
3. When famine hit the land of Canaan, Abraham fled to Egypt, misled the Egyptians concerning his relationship to Sarah, and eventually found himself in a very messy situation. After God rescued Abraham, he hit the reset button by returning to the place he had earlier built an altar and calling on the name of the Lord. Do you embrace restarts in your life? What does restarting look like for you?
4. After years of fruitless attempts to have a child, Sarah suggested that Abraham try to have children with Sarah's servant, Hagar. This was not an outlandish idea in their cultural context, but it was not how God intended to fulfill his promise to them. How might we try to achieve some desired outcome through means that God does not intend? Can you think of times in your own life when you tried to force a result in a way God did not desire? How do we know when we really do need to work harder or more creatively and when we're not approaching things in the way God desires?
5. Read Genesis 17:15-18. Eventually Abraham moved on from the dream of having a son through Sarah. Even so, God continued to reiterate his promise to Abraham. A

year later, Sarah gave birth to Isaac. What can we learn from all this?

6. Why do you think God gave Abraham the command to sacrifice Isaac? How is Abraham's great faith revealed through this episode? What do Abraham's experiences teach us about how we can grow in faith?
7. What are some areas in which you need to trust God to provide for you?

Pray